

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed from the Patent and Trademark Office on March 22, 2007, which has a shortened statutory period set to expire June 22, 2007.

Claims 1-5, 9, 10, 12, 20, 21, 23, 24, 28 and 30 are pending in the above-identified application, Claims 6-8, 11, 13, 14, 22, 25-27, 29, 31 and 32 are withdrawn from consideration, and Claims 15-19 are canceled. Claims 1-5, 9, 10, 12, 20, 21, 23, 24, 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 USC 102 in the pending Office Action.

In the current paper, Claims 1, 20, 21, 23, 24, 28 and 30 are amended for clarity. Claims 2-5, 9, 10, 12 and 30 remain as filed. No new matter is entered. In view of these amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all pending rejections.

Rejections Under 35 USC 102

Claims 1-5, 9, 10, 12, 20, 21, 23, 24, 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Simmons (U.S. Patent No. 5,339,222).

Claims 1-5, 9, 10 and 12

Claim 1 is amended to recite (in pertinent part):

...wherein the plurality of upper mating features are ultrasonically welded to the plurality of lower mating features...

Support for the above-quoted limitation is provided, for example, in Applicants' paragraph 0030 (page 7), which is copied below for reference:

[0030] To complete the assembly process, upper cover 210 is inserted into pocket 229 (with bonders 241 being pressed into receiving features 223), and a compressive (clamping) load is applied to force upper cover 210 towards lower cover 220 while ultrasonic vibrations are applied to bonders 241. The ultrasonic vibrations cause bonders 241 to melt, thereby joining upper cover 210 with lower cover 220 to form the final card-type electronic apparatus 200, as shown in Fig. 2C. Card-type electronic apparatus 200 can be any type of card-type electronic apparatus, including an SD card, a CF card, a Memory Stick card, a USB flash drive, or a flash memory hard drive, among others.

As amended, Claim 1 is distinguished over Simmons because Simmons fails to teach or suggest "upper mating features" that "are ultrasonically welded to...lower mating features", as recited in Claim 1. Instead, Simmons clearly teaches a "shielded printed circuit (PC) card holder, that may be readily 'snapped' into the assembly, or disassembled, as the case may be." (see abstract).

Claims 2-5, 9, 10 and 12 are dependent from Claim 1, and are therefore distinguished over Simmons for at least the reasons provided above with reference to Claim 1.

Claims 20, 21, 23, 24, 28 and 30

Claim 20 is amended to recite (in pertinent part, emphasis added):

...an upper **plastic** cover; and  
a lower **plastic** cover, the lower plastic cover comprising a plurality of lower sidewalls extending substantially perpendicularly from a bottom exterior surface of the lower plastic

cover, the plurality of lower sidewalls defining a pocket,  
wherein the upper plastic cover is **permanently attached** to the lower cover at a seam within the pocket...

Support for the above-quoted limitation related to the recitation of "plastic cover" is provided, for example, in Applicants' paragraph 0004 (pages 1-2), which are copied below for reference:

[0004] A card-type electronic apparatus is typically formed in a sandwich fashion, with two rigid plastic device covers enclosing the PCBA. Typically, those plastic covers are ultrasonically welded together, thereby ensuring a permanent encapsulation of the PCBA.

Applicant contends that the above paragraph, in conjunction with disclosures that the "present invention is directed to a card-type electronic apparatus that is formed from upper and lower covers" (see, e.g., paragraph 0010), and in conjunction with the clear teaching that the upper and lower covers are ultrasonically welded together (see, e.g., paragraph 0012), would be clearly understood by those skilled in the art that the upper and lower covers of the disclosed invention are plastic. As such, Applicant contends that the specification provides clear support for recitations of "upper plastic cover" and "lower plastic cover" in Claim 20.

Support for the above-quoted limitation related to the recitation of "the upper plastic cover is **permanently attached** to the lower cover" is provided, for example, in Applicants' paragraph 0005 (page 2), ("Ideally, when upper sidewalls 111 and lower sidewalls 121 are clamped together and ultrasonic vibrations are applied to bonders 141, upper

cover 110 and lower cover 120 are permanently joined to form a rigid enclosure for PCBA 130, as shown in Fig. 1B.") Because the present invention is described as being joined by "ultrasonic bonding" (see, e.g., paragraph 0013), Applicants contend that the specification provides clear support for the recitation of "permanently attached" Claim 20.

As amended, Claim 20 is distinguished over Simmons because Simmons fails to teach or suggest an "upper plastic cover" and a "lower plastic cover" that are "permanently attached", as recited in Claim 20. Conversely, Simmons clearly teaches a "bottom cover member formed of a conductive material" (see abstract), where the "conductive material is disclosed as being "metal" (see column 3, line 23). Further, as mentioned above, Simmons teaches that the bottom cover member is "snapped" together, and fails to teach or suggest a "permanent attachment", as recited in Claim 20.

Claims 21, 23, 24, 28 and 30 are dependent from Claim 20, and are therefore distinguished over Simmons for at least the reasons provided above with reference to Claim 20.

For the above reasons, Applicants' respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC 102.

Request for Reinstatement of Claims 6-8, 11, 13, 14, 22,  
25-27, 29, 31 and 32

Should the Examiner decide to allow Claims 1 and 20 over the cited prior art, Applicant respectfully requests reinstatement of withdrawn Claims 6-8, 11, 13, 14, 22, 25-27, 29, 31 and 32, which depend from Claims 1 and 20, and remain consistent with the amendments to Claims 1 and 20. Applicants respectfully point out that Claims 22, 25, 26, 27 and 29 are amended to conform to the amendment to Claim 20 in anticipation to their reinstatement. No new matter is entered.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, Applicants believe Claims 1-5, 9, 10, 12, 20, 21, 23, 24, 28 and 30 are in condition for allowance, and requests reinstatement of Claims 6-8, 11, 13, 14, 22, 25-27, 29, 31 and 32. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick T. Bever". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "P" and a distinct "B" at the end.

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